

2010 Census

An important step in helping our community is to complete your Census 2010 forms when you receive them in the mail. At a time when so many rely on the services provided by our county, state, and federal governments to help them weather these tough economic times, completion of these forms is critical to the future of our communities. Not only does accurate census data determine how many members Pennsylvania will have in the House of Representatives, but it is also used to determine how more than \$400 billion per year (or more than \$4 trillion over a 10-year period) is allocated for key projects, such as new hospitals and schools, public-works projects, including new roads and bridges, job training, senior centers, and emergency services.

By visiting the Census 2010 [website](#) , you can learn more about [completing your Census forms](#) , how the Census benefits your [communi](#)ty and the [na](#)tion , how the Census ensuring [privacy and confidentiality](#) of data, or how you can get [involved](#) . You can use the [Census Data Tools](#) to get interesting stats, numbers and facts about your community, find out demographic information and chart projected growth for your city, county, state, and much more.

Reminder: April 15th is the Deadline for Filing 2009 Tax Returns

With the deadline to file income tax returns (April 15th) approaching, there are a number of

resources to help you complete your return.

- [Publication 17, "Your Federal Income Tax,"](#) features details on taking advantage of new tax-saving opportunities and also provides more than 6,000 interactive links to help taxpayers quickly get answers to their questions.

- [IRS 1040 Central](#)
- [IRS Forms and Publications](#)
- Information on most recent [tax code changes](#)

For information about the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) run by the IRS visit their [website](#)

or call (800) 906-9887. In addition, AARP offers "Tax-Aide," a volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service. Their [website](#)

provides more information about Tax-Aide and how to [find the nearest Tax-Aide site](#)

. Finally, Pathways PA, a non-profit organization based in Holmes, PA that also operates a number of VITA sites in the area. For more information, visit the organization's [website](#)

or call (800) 209-2914.

IRS Tax Assistance Day

On Saturday, March 27th from 9 AM to 2 PM, the Philadelphia IRS Office (600 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106) will hold one of their Tax Assistance Days. IRS personnel will be on hand to:

- Assist with account inquiries if you have received any notices or levies on wages or bank accounts from the IRS;
- Provide copies of Tax Returns and Transcripts (typically available for the current year and three years prior);
- Aid in Federal Tax Return Preparation (generally available to those with an annual income less than \$49,000);
- Help arrange payment plans for taxes owed;
- Answer Tax Law questions (related to your individual Federal Tax Return)

For more information, please call 1-800-906-9887.

Philadelphia Saves: Financial Boot Camp for Life

In honor of Financial Literacy Month, the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of the Delaware Valley ([CCCSDV](#)), a nonprofit community service organization which offers counseling services and educational opportunities to empower individuals financially, is offering a free program called [Financial Boot Camp for Life](#) . The event is offered by [Philadelphi](#)
[a Save](#)
[s](#), a local campaign that has helped thousands of local residents become motivated to save by setting personal goals and access to educational tools.

The event will be held on Saturday, April 10th from 9 AM to 2 PM at Temple University, Main Campus. It is free to attend, however, registration is required. For more information or to registration, please visit the CCCSDV [website](#) , call 215-563-7868, or email philasaves@cccsvd.org. If you cannot attend on April 10th

but are interested in services offered by CCCSDV, you can visit one of their many [locations](#) throughout the region.

Scholarship Opportunities:

The **Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation** is requesting nominations for the 2010 Agriscience Awards, Life Science Awards, and Homeland Security Awards. The purpose of these programs is to recognize individuals and groups judged to exemplify excellence in these fields through monetary awards and research funds. I encourage you to visit www.agriscienceawards.com and www.ccolumbusfoundationawards.org for more information. Please note that the nomination deadlines are April 6, April 13, and May 7, respectively. You may contact Judi Shellenberger at judithmscolumbus@cs.com or 315-258-0090 with questions.

The **Smedley D. Butler Detachment of the Marine Corps League** is offering a one-time \$5,000.00 scholarship to one West Chester area and one Marple Newtown area, public, private, or parochial school student. Applicants must submit a well-researched essay of approximately 1500 words on the history and accomplishments of General Smedley D. Butler. General Butler was born in West Chester, PA and lived his adult, non-military life in Newtown Square, PA. General Butler is one of two United States Marines awarded two Medals of Honor. The essay must be footnoted and referenced to the research undertaken.

Applicants must be in the 12th grade and have been accepted to an accredited four-year college or university. Application deadline is April 15, 2010. Contact Earle Drake, 610-325-9065, for applications.

Flood Preparedness Guidance:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's FloodSmart Campaign and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are working together to raise awareness of the dangers associated with flooding – the most common, costly, and deadly severe weather related disaster annually in the U.S. – and steps to protect against damage. The unusually wet and snowy winter in many communities will likely increase the potential for spring flood events, meaning residents should take important steps now to ensure safety and financial security, including obtaining flood insurance.

To help individuals better understand flood risks nationwide and steps that can be taken to protect lives and property, FEMA and NOAA have created a new [website](#) which includes an interactive “flood impact map” that features localized, searchable data about the scope and severity of flood events in recent years and important tips on what to do before, during and after a flood. Flood coverage can be purchased for properties both in, and outside of, the highest risk areas. Individuals can learn more about seasonal flood risks and what to do to prepare by visiting FEMA's [web site](#) or by calling 1-800-427-2419.

Passport Day in the USA 2010:

On Saturday, March 27, the Department of State will celebrate its 2nd annual “[Passport Day in the USA](#).” U.S. citizens throughout the country can apply for a passport at any one of the 23 regional passport agencies without an appointment from 10 AM to 3PM. You will be able to apply either through [routine processing](#) or pay an additional \$60 for

[expedited processing](#)

. Information on Pennsylvania locations that are participating in Passport Day in the USA and the specific services available at each location can be found on the State Department's [website](#)

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United Through Reading Program:

CPT Peter Curley, currently stationed at the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Warhorse in Iraq, is looking for assistance in bringing the United Through Reading Program to his base. The United Through Reading Program, going on its 20th year, is a nonprofit organization that unites military personnel serving overseas with their families back home through book readings. Deployed soldiers are given the opportunity to read a book while being recorded, and then mail the book and DVD home for their children and family. CPT Curley has set up a video camera and tripod for troops to use at FOB Warhorse, but lacks the children's books and miniDVDs necessary. He is asking for support in getting miniDVDs with cases, padded envelopes that can hold a book, and, most importantly, children's books for all ages. CPT Curley can be reached at peter.curley@us.army.mil

or by mail at CPT Peter Curley / HSB 1-37 FA / FOB Warhorse, Iraq / APO, AE 09336.

White House Council on Environmental Quality Statement Regarding the Ocean Policy Task Force and Recreational Fishing

There have been recent reports regarding the White House's policy on Recreational Fishing. Christine Glunz, White House Council on Environmental Quality Spokesperson, issued the following statement regarding the Ocean Policy Task Force draft reports and how they relate to

the recreational fishing community:

“The draft reports issued by the Ocean Policy Task Force involved extensive stakeholder input and public participation as they were being prepared, which included the interests of conservationists and the recreational fishing community. These draft reports are not map-drawing exercises, they do not contain a zoning plan, and they do not establish any restrictions on recreational fishing or on public access, nor make any judgments about whether one ocean activity or use is better than another.

“The Ocean Policy Task Force sincerely appreciates the conservation activities of recreational users, who have a long history of actively participation in the stewardship of the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The Task Force strongly believes in the ability of recreational fishermen and women to continue to enjoy these activities that are critical to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of our country. In fact, one of our main goals is to ensure healthier ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes, which will benefit all recreational activities and the communities and economies that rely on them.”

The draft Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force reports are available online [here](#) .